

SECRETON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

26 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Vice President's Task Force on Counterterrorism,
25 July 1985

1. The Vice President chaired the meeting, noting that a lot had been done through the Crisis Management Task Force and that as far as he was concerned, the government had accomplished a great deal in preparing for and handling the terrorist account. He said it was not his intention to inject an additional entity into the government rubric. He was anxious for the Task Force on Counterterrorism to take a longer range view of how the U.S. side works, including establishing priorities, coordinating, funding, and how we are organized. The Vice President intends anything relating to handling terrorism on the international front to go through the appropriate responsible agencies. He expects the Task Force will exist for several months, come forward with any recommendations to the President, and then go out of business. The Vice President reiterated that a great deal of work had been done and cited that CIA and State Department had accomplished a great deal on the terrorist front. The Task Force was not intended to change any of that.

2. Admiral Holloway then noted his intentions as Task Force Director. He said the purpose of the Task Force was to review and evaluate our national capability. This will be accomplished by the agencies themselves through the government representatives present at the meeting. He said he was encouraged by the optimism and openness to improvement of the people whom he spoken with so far. He said there would be three basic organizations: a working group, senior review group, and an analysis group. Admiral Holloway will be director of the working group, and he would like a State Department officer at an Assistant Director level as his deputy. The working group will be composed of middle-grade representatives from the agencies present. Defense has already offered up five or six people (a smile broke the countenance of most people at the table except Defense). Admiral Holloway noted the senior review group, which would be at the Assistant Secretary level, would not be a full-time sitting body but merely available on call. The third group, the analysis group, would probably be composed of three or four contractor personnel in the early phase.

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Their job will be to review the collection and research matters associated with terrorism and try to determine where we stand in those areas. Holloway went on to say that he also plans to use outside consultants, such as Congressmen, Senators, or people from the private sector who have voiced an interest in this subject. He plans to keep publicity to a minimum.

3. McFarlane spoke of the need to encourage cooperation from our allies on this subject. Secretary Dole outlined Transportation's efforts to get ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) access to foreign airports so that inspection teams could make recommendations on the security and safety measures at the airports.

4. The DCI spoke of our counterterrorism efforts, particularly working through foreign countries. He noted activities underway to restore our authority to support and aid the local police and enforcement organizations around the world since these organizations actually carry out the effort against terrorism.

5. With that we all withdrew, total length of meeting about 30 minutes.

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